



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

**Steven L. Beshear, Governor**

**Leonard K. Peters, Secretary**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Fire Management Chief Named by Division of Forestry** ***Saunier to lead wildland fire management program***

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (May 30, 2012) – Luke Saunier has been named fire management chief for the Kentucky Division of Forestry (Fire Department No. 994), moving up from a position as forest ranger technician III in the Bluegrass District. Saunier has previous experience in the military and brings wildfire and law enforcement experience to the position.

“As the division’s fire chief, Saunier will be responsible for the overall leadership and program direction for wildland fire management in Kentucky,” said Leah MacSwords, director of the Division of Forestry. “The position requires firsthand knowledge of fire science, an understanding of the complexities of the Incident Command System, and the ability to manage grant funding for programs ranging from equipping volunteer fire departments to providing fire mitigation to communities.”

Saunier has a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from the University of Kentucky and will receive a Master of Science degree in criminal justice and emergency management this fall. Saunier is also a veteran of the U. S. Army and served in Iraq as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom II. He has been with the Division of Forestry as a forest ranger technician since 2007.

Saunier is an outdoors enthusiast and advocate for environmental education. He resides in Scott Count with his wife, Kathleen, daughter, Sophie and son, Lucas.

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